

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt214

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

April 16, 1997
Earl L. Orner
HCR 61, Box 5444
Barnes, Wisconsin 54873
715-795-2563

Wisconsin Legislature Joint Finance Committee
Madison WI. 53707

Dear Committee Members,

Please include \$1.8 million, per year, of increased funding for Wisconsin's Snowmobile Program.

The 1980's era financing methods are outmoded and must be upgraded to handle the tremendous increase in the number of snowmobiles, the miles traveled by each, the increased speed and range of travel. The trails must now be prepared better during the summer and then groomed better and much more often during the winter to keep them in good condition. The winter tourism industry depends on satisfied snowmobiling customers.

The clubs are weary of the ever increasing financial load that has outgrown the capacity of all those raffles, bean feeds, donation jars etc. They are spending more time with fund raisers than working on the trails. Their ranks are thinning and they are aging with the oldtimers not being replaced in sufficient numbers.

New, more automatic, funding sources must be developed. We need a share of GPR revenue received by the State from snowmobile related sources. We also should have an adjustment in the 50 gallons of gasoline tax allowance per machine, per year. In 1980 the average was 400 miles per year. It is now said to be 1400 miles per year.

The Bayfield County Snowmobile Alliance receives about \$100,000.00 from State snowmobile funding per year. Its annual budget has grown to almost \$250,000.00. Fund raising the difference has become an overwhelming task.

Two severe winters in a row has about the same effect on the snowmobile organizations as it has on the deer herd. The 1997/98 season will be the most critical time. We will sell one of our six groomers this spring and don't expect to be able to afford to replace it.

The Bayfield County Alliance owes about \$200,000.00 on groomer loans and the annual payments are about \$52,000.00 per year. I, and three other Officers personally cosigned a \$178,000.00 note this fall.

Our basic \$200.00 per mile grant is \$66,600.00 per year. Supplemental grooming claims were prorated at 54.4% this year so Bayfield County received less than \$40,000.00 in Supplemental funding for a total of a little over \$100,000.00 total State funding.

We fear that the Supplemental prorate may fall below 50% for the current grooming season.

Another problem is that the northern county's basic \$200.00 per mile grants are used up in the first half of January. The clubs and alliances have to self finance the grooming done from then until grooming is over about mid-March themselves. I originated a Rule change to allow a 50% advance on Supplemental claims after they are audited, but the 1996/97 claims payments were delayed until December, anyway, due to a new computer system.

It's obvious that Snowmobile trails are the basis of most of our winter tourism and that financial problems are threatening "to kill the golden goose" both in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The volunteers are willing to take care of the trails but someone else must assume financial responsibility.

The Bayfield County Snowmobile Alliance is considering turning all fund raising over to the business associations. The Alliance would then determine how much state funding is available in addition to what the associations pledge and reduce the number of groomers to match available funds.

I can be contacted at 715-795-2563 or the address above.

Sincerely,



Earl L. Orner

From David Sanders



Budget Brief

TEACH WISCONSIN - GOVERNOR THOMPSON'S TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Background- Governors's Budget (AB100-SB77)

WEAC and the WFT support the 1997-98 biennial budget bill initiative for public schools called Teach Wisconsin. The Governor's proposal is an excellent first step in achieving the goal of bringing educational technology and telecommunications to Wisconsin's school children.

We feel that the following recommended changes will eliminate weaknesses, change potential political opposition to support, and improve the delivery system and administration of TEACH.

- **Shift from Pioneering Partners to Block Grants**

The change from competitive grants to block grants to all school districts improves this program. Some school districts have been left stranded because of the change.

Recommendation: Appropriate \$5 million to fund one more competitive grant cycle in the old Pioneering Partners Program.

Rationale: Individual school districts who may oppose this program because they were disadvantaged by the shift will become allies.

- **Common School Fund as Revenue Source for TEACH**

School librarians are opposed to TEACH because they are concerned that the school libraries may have future revenue cutbacks if the common school fund is depleted by TEACH.

Recommendation: Insert statutory language which guarantees a threshold appropriation of no less than the previous base year appropriation for school libraries.

Rationale: A guarantee of future funding for school libraries will convert opposition to support.

- **Governance Structure Of Teach Wisconsin**

TEACH Wisconsin calls for the creation of a new agency to coordinate and administer the program. The Educational Communications Board can better serve the K-12 community while saving approximately \$75,000 GPR each year of the biennium.

Recommendation: Designate the Educational Communications Board as the coordinating agency for TEACH . Maintain TEACH as a discreet entity within the ECB.

Rationale: By designating the ECB as the coordinating agency for TEACH , the program can be integrated with a number of other distance education within ECB. K-12 schools have a high level of confidence in the ECB. ECB enjoys an excellent reputation within the K-12 community.

- **Enhanced Role for CESA's**

Providing two new positions to each CESA district is one of the stronger features of this program. WEAC envisions an expanded role for CESA's in K-12 educational telecommunications and technology. We believe that the role of CESA's can be further enhanced by creating local advisory councils with broad based membership within each CESA district.

Recommendation: Create regional educational technology advisory councils coterminous with each CESA district consisting of school administrators, teachers and school board members, representatives of local libraries, technical college and university campuses, telecommunications industry representatives and citizens to advise the ECB Executive Director on matters relating to the delivery of educational technology and telecommunications services to local school districts.

Rationale: Creating 12 regional advisory councils with broad private and public sector membership to create forums for the educational community on matters pertaining to educational technology and telecommunications and, to advise the ECB and TEACH Wisconsin on matters of concern at the local level.

- **Telecommunications Rate Reductions for Schools**

We support the Governor's proposal to require the Universal Service Fund to provide funds for telecommunications rate discounts. However, by including these revenues within the states two-thirds funding obligation establishes a precedent which we must oppose.

Recommendation: Do not include the Universal Service Fund Money in the states two-third funding.

Rationale: Including universal service revenues in the two-thirds funding impedes the development of educational technology by shrinking the amount of money for other programs and, establishes an unacceptable precedent for the future use of FCC universal service revenues.

Contact: John (Jack) W. Coe, WEAC legislative Consultant
1-(800)362-8034 ext. 238

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING

BUDGET SECTIONS:

- 45/52/53/116/120/124/125/148/150/151/221/235/264/270/272/283/667/674/680/681/736/737/752/753/815/816/818/820/824/826/834/916/1168/1192/1212-1215/1342-1344/1347/2877/3145-3155/3158/9101/9140/9141/9401.

Creation of a New Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH) Wisconsin Board:

- A newly created TEACH board responsible for working with public school districts, CESAs, the UW System Board of Regents, the WTCS Board and the DOA to do all of the following -- (1) promote the efficient, cost-effective procurement, installation and maintenance of educational technology by school districts, CESA's and by UW and WTCS institutions -- (2) identify best methods of providing in-service training for teachers and faculty relating to the effective use of educational technology and administer funding for teacher training and -- (3) establish standards and specifications for the purchase of education technology hardware and software and for the installation and upgrading of school and computer network wiring.
- The TEACH Wisconsin Board would be a nine-member board including a member of the UW Board of Regents and a member of the WTCS Board appointed by their respective boards, the Secretary of DOA, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and five members appointed by the governor. The governor also appoints the executive director of the board.
- The governor's budget calls for \$30,096,500 in FY98 and \$54,710,900 in FY99 (from various revenue sources - GPR/PR-O/SEG-O) and 6.00 full time equivalent (FTE) positions for the new agency.
- **NOTE:** This provision coincides with the recommended elimination of the Pioneering Partners Grant and Loan Program and the Educational Technology Board. These programs' function and appropriations will be taken over by the new TEACH board. Their primary function is for awarding grants and loans to school district and public libraries for distance education and educational technology projects. In addition distance learning functions of the Educational Communications Board (ECB) would be transferred to the new Board.
- **NOTE:** In his budget address, the Governor stated that all funds relating to education technology would be outside of the state's imposed revenue limits. This represents the first exemption in the limits supported by the Governor.

Educational Technology Block Grants - Administered by TEACH Agency:

- Provide \$25M GPR/SEG in FY98 and \$40M GPR/SEG in FY99 for noncompetitive block grants to school districts for educational technology. The block grants would be proportional to the number of persons between the ages of 4 and 20 who reside in each school district. A base grant is also provided to all school districts in the amount of \$5,000.
- The block grants would be used to purchase and maintain computer hardware and software, to train professional staff members in using educational technology, and for the repayment of loans related to investments in educational technology.
- **NOTE:** Additional grant awards to districts would depend in part on a weighted scale. The scale would be based on a school district's property values measured against the state average equalized valuation per pupil. In addition, all grants would be available only if the school board adopts a resolution requesting the grant.
- **NOTE:** Grants to districts would be deposited in a separate fund. The funds may be used for any purpose related to educational technology, except that a school district may not use the funds to pay the salary or benefits of any school district employee.

Grants to CESAs - Administered by the TEACH Agency:

- TEACH agency will promulgate rules to provide \$4M annually to CESAs. The funds are designated for teacher training programs and to fund two staff members per CESA. One staff person would provide technical assistance related to educational technology and a second staff person will coordinate and provide educational training for the school districts served by the CESA agency.

Subsidized School Wiring Loans/Telecommunications Access - Administered by the TEACH Agency:

- Provide \$50M annually in state bonding authority for loans to school districts to upgrade their electrical and computer network wiring. *Provide funding for the state to pay one-half of the principal and interest charges on the loans to school districts.*
- Direct the PSC to coordinate with the TEACH board and the DOA to use moneys in the universal service fund to ensure that all school districts are able to access a high speed data link providing direct Internet access and, if the district chooses, two-way video link for not more than \$250/month.
- The board determines the interest rate for loans which shall be "as low as possible" but shall be sufficient to fully pay all interest expenses incurred by the state.

CE SA #12

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE AGENCY - #12

■ Fred J. Schlichting,
Administrator

618 Beaser Avenue
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806
715-682-2363
Fax 715-682-7244

DATE: 4/16/97
TO: Joint Finance Committee
RE: Testimony for State Budget Hearing 4/17/97, Superior, Wisconsin
School to Work

I am writing to you to express my opinion that the proposal to consolidate the School to Work office in the Department of Workforce Development be amended. The current proposal will transfer vocational education consultants from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Wisconsin Technical College Board (WTCB) to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). I suggest that funds for additional staff be added to the Department of Workforce Development School to Work office budget and the vocational education consultants remain at DPI and WTCB. DWD, DPI and the Wisconsin Technical College System each deserve staff to implement the State plan for School to Work.

The concepts and program activities contained in the State plan for School to Work need to be integrated into school curriculum, articulated with the post secondary system and connected to business and industry partners. It is critical that each State department be adequately staffed so as to provide leadership, technical assistance and consultation necessary for our schools and communities to plan and implement quality programs. If School to Work is to deliver on the promise of educational reform, please do not support a policy that erodes the leadership capacity of the State's educational agencies.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Lee, Director
Center for School to Work and Career Preparation

JL:jmp

cc: Assembly Person Barbara Linton
State Senator Robert Jauch
State Superintendent John Benson
Vicki Poole, Administrator, Division of Connecting Education and Work

■
Ashland
Bayfield
Butternut
Drummond
Glidden
Hayward
Hurley
Maple
Mellen
Mercer
Northwood
Park Falls
Phillips
Solon Springs
South Shore
Superior
Washburn
Winter

REF: STW Server/Jeanette/JL FY7/Memo State Budget Hearing

"School Districts Working Together"

COMMENTS TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
By: Kenneth Stubbe, Executive Director
Superior-Douglas County Development Association, Inc.

I. Two issues I'd like to speak to are:

1. The importance of OC-3 level node Badgernet access to Superior and Douglas County economic development
2. Support for the Governor's Brownfields Initiative

II. OC-3 Level Node Badgernet access

- ▶ A four-lane OC-3 level node Badgernet data transmission expressway is as important to Superior and Douglas County educational excellence as the U.S. Highway 53 expressway is for transportation access to the rest of the country.
- ▶ A narrow, two-lane, rural DS-3 level node data highway will keep Superior in the technology hinterlands just as completely as the lack of the Highway 53 expressway would have kept us in the transportation hinterlands.
- ▶ The quality of technology and access to information at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and at our local schools and libraries are among the primary engines of local business growth, job creation efforts and local economic development.
- ▶ To even be in the game, Superior, Douglas County and northwestern Wisconsin must have the same access to information as communities we compete against.
- ▶ We should not be punished because of our geography.

III. Governor's Brownfields Initiative

- ▶ Superior, like other Wisconsin cities, is an international seaport.
- ▶ Superior and the southern shore of Lake Superior also retains much of its original pristine natural beauty.
- ▶ On the waterfront in Superior we have a number of abandoned, obsolete ore docks and grain storage facilities.

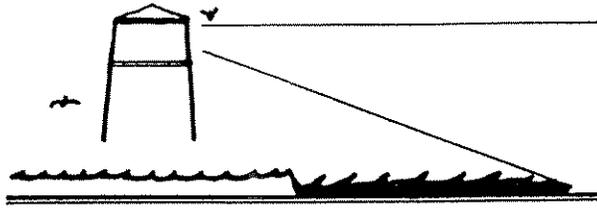
Comments to Joint Finance Committee

By: Kenneth Stubbe

Page #2

- ▶ Clean-up and redevelopment of these abandoned sites would restore lost natural beauty to Superior and would lessen the pressure to develop still pristine areas.
- ▶ Funding provided through the Brownfields Initiative would allow Superior to be both environmentally and developmentally pro-active on our waterfront.

April 17, 1997



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

P. O. Box 1222
Superior, WI 54880

STATEMENT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE RELATING TO LANGUAGE ON MINING, Sec. 3729-3730 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAND USE COUNCIL

Superior, Wisconsin
April 17, 1997

The League of Women Voters of Douglas County and League of Women Voters of Wisconsin have great concern regarding the Governor's budget language on mining, Sec. 3729-3730 and urge its rejection.

The language of these paragraphs stating "proven technology" exists to ensure proposed mining will operate "without violating state groundwater or surface water statutes or rules" is a vague and essentially meaningless statement.

The Governor's language would not require any proof that the technology in question has actually worked successfully in a mine of any sort, much less a sulfide metallic mine such as the proposed Crandon Mine. Nor does it require that a mining operator prove by example that the technology has worked over a period of time. Waste in tailings piles can remain toxic for centuries, and any leakage from the tailings could contaminate ground and/or surface water.

To propose this vague language with no existing examples of safe use in an actual mining situation of similar type is not acceptable in the face of potential and protracted damage to ground and surface waters of the state.

In regard to Land Use: since the 1970's the League of Women Voters has expressed continued support for the development of wise land management. The Governor's budget recognizes the increasingly serious and costly problem of unregulated land use in Wisconsin by recommending a permanent Wisconsin Land Council to identify goals, priorities and procedures.

However, no concrete steps toward realizing already identified goals and priorities are presented in the budget. Requiring that the Council issue an evaluation of its performance by the year 2002 does nothing to forward action on already completed study by the Strategic Growth Task Force and recommendations of the Interagency Land Use Council.

Problems and recommendations already identified need to be addressed with concrete steps that can be implemented now so local jurisdictions can start to draw up their land use plans without further delay.

We are also concerned that the Land Information Board, an established and functioning board, supported largely by user fees, will lose its effectiveness and ability to respond to local needs if it is subsumed into the Council. It works well and is responsive to local needs.

The Wisconsin Land Information Program - the Board plus 3 technical staff - provides guidance and expertise to local governmental units. It also provides grant money to counties and municipalities to facilitate land record modernization and is rapidly developing a land information clearinghouse. We strongly recommend the Land Information Board be retained in its present form. It can be accessed by the Wisconsin Land Council as needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to address our concerns regarding mining and land use.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth O'Konek".

Ruth O'Konek, Vice President
League of Women Voters of Douglas County

Sawyer County
LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT
SAWYER COUNTY COURT HOUSE • P.O. BOX 441
HAYWARD, WISCONSIN 54843

TELEPHONE 715-634-3564

April 17, 1997

Joint Finance Committee
Attn. Mr. Brian Burk
Mr. Scott Jensen

Re: Testimony Regarding Wisconsin Land Information Program

My name is Ron Peterson and I am the County Surveyor and Land Records Officer for Sawyer County. I wish to speak in favor of the retention of the WLIB and the WLIP in their present form, including the present form of administration, representation and funding.

For 35 years I was the owner/operator of a private land surveying business here in Sawyer County. I know well hardships of trying to perform surveys without county participation in the Public Land Survey system and the additional expense in time and dollars while trying to do record research in a antiquated, non-automated land records system.

When Sawyer County joined the WLIP 5 years ago, I was hired as the County Surveyor/Land Records Officer. Through the WLIP and under the guidance of the WLIB, Sawyer County has made more progress in the modernization of its land records and the PLS monumentation program in the past 5 years then in the previous 50 years.

A document imaging system has been installed in the Register of Deeds Office to electronically scan and index over 8000 documents into the record each year. Automated mapping has been added to the Land Records department to handle zone district maps, parcel maps and the address system mapping. A full time survey department has been added to monument the 5000 plus corners in the PLS system and our high precision geodetic network will be completed this summer which will provide the framework for a County wide coordinate system to control surveying and mapping.

The credit for those accomplishments can only be attributed to the WLIP under the guidance of the WLIB. Because the program is structured the way Government was intended to function (with the dog wagging the tail and not the other way around), the counties and municipalities are able to do their own "needs assessment" and set the priorities for their modernization plan. WLIB has established standards for the various activities, thereby ensuring that the products developed will be compatible with other government agencies.

To confiscate the WLIP/WLIB and transfer it to some bureaucracy would sign the death certificate of a program that has been so successful that it has gained National recognition. The program is what it is because of the hundreds of people who worked to develop and structure it. Most of those people came from the private sector and municipal and county government- people who are still in touch with the everyday problems of providing services to the citizenry of our State.

Don't "throw the baby out with the wash water".

Sincerely,



Ron Peterson

County Surveyor/LIO

Joint Finance Committee
Brian Burke, Scott Jensen, Co-chairs
Testimony of Kathleen E. Swingle, Burnett County Surveyor/Land Information
Supervisor
April 17, 1997/Superior

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget bill. My concerns deal with sections 44, 51, 133 through 142, 669, 672 and 673, 682 through 684, 774 and 775, 1156, 1164, 2164, 2175 through 2178. All of these sections contribute to a transfer of all legislative charges and funding of the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) to the Department of Administration.

The Wisconsin Land Information Board is part of a thriving land information modernization program now underway in Wisconsin. This project has won acclaim from other states and, indeed, other nations and its participants have thoughtfully developed a path to success. Proof of this success is consistently produced in all geographic areas of the state as well as the many facets of land information.

A philosophy of the WLIB and others involved with the Wisconsin Land Information Program is to make the absolute best use of the taxpayer dollar by eliminating as much redundancy as possible through cooperative efforts and communication between local, state and federal officials, tribal governments and private industry. The sharing of information and expertise is not a small part of this process. I have never witnessed another program with so many talented, generous and enthusiastic professionals willing to give of themselves way beyond the "call of duty." These, plus many other factors, contribute to the impressive accomplishments of this effort.

I know the paragraphs above are rather general and there are many, many specific examples I could relay to you from my own personal experience. However, in view of the immensity of conducting the hearings, I hope it will be sufficient to say "please contact me if you would like to hear details". Burnett County has been profoundly affected by the land information modernization movement. It is important to impress upon you the gains made in Wisconsin through the Land Information Program as it now exists and that a change at this point would not benefit the citizens of the state. I would also like to point out the issue is not just a group of people resisting change. The land information community must embrace (or at least have peaceful coexistence) with change at all times because of the rapid changes in our technology. Another thing we have learned is change for the sake of change is not necessarily progress.

Here are my concerns:

- The Wisconsin Land Information Board and the Wisconsin Land Information Program were born out of a very public process through the legislature with a great deal of scrutiny. (Perhaps a contributing reason for the success.) It does not seem wise to end this type of a program with a few paragraphs in the budget bill.

- The proposed Wisconsin Land Council which would be replacing the Wisconsin Land Information Board does not have the policy making ability the WLIB has and would be a child of the Department of Administration. At minimum, this would be perceived as a "state" program and possibly remove cooperative incentives that now exist between local and other levels of government.
- The WLC was conceived out of the need for land use planning in the state. While I very much agree with the need for land use planning and personally sit on committees doing just that in my county, planning is only one of the applications for the various types of land information being captured. Furthermore, it can be a very controversial one which could result in losing our whole program if planning took a downward turn in the polls.
- Sections 682 through 684 seize the funds administered by the WLIP from the original purpose of funding the wide variety of WLIP programs. I am troubled by the lack of language guaranteeing funding of WLIP activities and I fear substantially more dollars will be used for administrative purposes.

This is why I join with the Wisconsin Land Information Association in the request to consider removing all references to eliminate the WLIP and WLIB or transfer of duties from the budget bill so this issue can be handled in a more thoughtful manner.

I also concur with the WLIA that it would be proper to provide a seat on the WLIP for a member of the Wisconsin Land Use Council; that land use mapping be a legislatively directed foundational element of the Wisconsin Land Information Program; that concurrent sunset dates for both the WLC and the WLIP may be appropriate; that parallel evaluation and performance reviews for both the WLC and the WLIP be conducted.

The WLIA is correct in wishing to maintain the WLIP (and WLIP) which provides a strong connection between the land information community and the policy body. They strongly feel the need for segregated funding which, in my opinion, is necessary to be certain the funding goes to land record modernization efforts. The staff of the WLIP as it now exists should be maintained. They have done a terrific job under difficult conditions. And finally, the chemistry that exists by the combination of WLIP, WLIP advisors, WLIA and local participation is a very hard one to beat!

Thank you again for providing a forum for input from the community and for listening to my views on this very important topic.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Swingle
Burnett County Surveyor/Land Information Supervisor

I am David Johnson, Director of the Northern Wisconsin Educational Communications System consisting of 7 k-12 school districts, the University of Wisconsin Superior, the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College system, and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College. I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

The TEACH initiative is a bold, innovative, and I believe unprecedented approach to addressing the technology needs of ~~our~~ students in Wisconsin. I have a few brief comments and concerns:

Block Grants

LSD

Shared classes

TECHNOLOGY

- Through the block grant program, TEACH addresses the frustrations of many of our small rural districts, that is the inability to acquire state funding through the competitive grant process against the larger more resourceful districts.
- These block grants, although quite small for most of our schools, and the subsidized access to T-1 or T-3 telecommunications lines, represent an opportunity to move forward. The subsidized rates could be the most important element of TEACH for Northern Wisconsin, an area with limited high speed internet access.
- However, I am afraid that large collaborative projects, such as the creation of new distance education networks, will decline under the TEACH program. Without some available funds or some provision for these large scale projects, growth of new networks will slow dramatically.
- Small districts will also find it very difficult to join existing networks. The cost of joining a network vary greatly. The Hayward school district will be joining our network this fall thanks to an ETB grant. Cost 77 thousand dollars. Relatively inexpensive. On the other hand, the cost for Senator Jauchs home district of Maple to join the same network would be in the area of 200 thousand dollars.
- Furthermore, TEACH eliminates the current state coordination and support offered to distance education networks through the Educational Communications Board. One of those coordinating activities was the organizing of ~~ETB~~ committee on which I serve, made up of Network directors from different areas of the state. The purpose of this ~~ETB~~ committee is to set guidelines for and foster internetwork activities across the state. The kind of link-ups that the governor demonstrated during his state of the state address. I hope that TEACH will be able to continue to provide the kind of coordination that we have come to count upon, so that we will not become isolated from each other.

SADGURNET - Chancellor Ehrenbach is right.

(CESA's)

I would like to finish up by expressing support to the role of Cooperative Educational Service Agencies in the TEACH program. When districts lack the resources to train their teachers and support their technology they turn to CESA's for help. In general, Northern Wisconsin districts are contending with declining enrollments and are tightening their belts. They cannot afford technology coordinators or technical support staff. ~~By creating these two new positions at the CESA level TEACH will begin to address the needs of the whole region.~~ CESA's are also currently the primary provider of teacher training in technology in our region. State support for CESA's activities will allow for the creation of programs designed for the special needs of the region.

I would like to take one more moment to speak about a separate issue. The ETB is currently reviewing applications for what looks to be its last time. I believe that it is vital that funds are not removed from the program until after this final round. Many organizations have put a lot of hard work into those applications, applications for many projects unattainable through TEACH, and they deserve a fair shot at getting funded.

Thank you for your time, and this opportunity to speak.

State DE functions:

- sub-committees dealing with specific issues like internetwork programming
- Forum of Network Directors
- gathering and distribution of information about the status of DE networks in the state and Distance Education Technologies
- express the states vision and acts as contact with the DOA and other state bodies
- help to identify funding federal and non-state funding sources

April 14, 1997

To: State Joint Finance Committee,
Public Hearing - April 17, 1997

I am a Component Coordinator for a Head Start program that covers the 5 northern counties of Wisconsin. The component areas that I am responsible for are Health and Nutrition. Within our Head Start program we serve over 560 families a year. At least 75% of these families are eligible and receive some services from Medical Assistance.

During the last few years it has become a real challenge for these families to receive services from area dentists. The dentists are not providing services to families that have an MA card. Many dentists will not accept new MA clients and many have quit servicing families with an MA card that have received services from them in the past. It is a real problem for families to access any sort of Dental care.

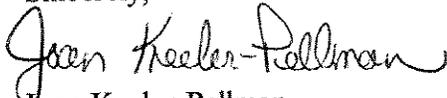
The Wisconsin Dental Association 12th District has proposed a Title 19 Block Grant Pilot Program. This program would occur in Douglas, Ashland, Bayfield and Iron counties. This proposal would provide better access to dental care services to families that are on Medical Assistance.

A performance standard of the Head Start program is for every child to have a annual dental exam. We see many children who come into our program at the age of 3 who have never been to the dentist. And in most cases if they did see a dentist it was for the relief of pain. We work very hard to educate and assist families to visit the dentist on a regular, preventive basis. We work with the children to provide education on what a dental visit is like and try very hard in taking the fear away. More accessible dental services need to be available to assist our families in accomplishing this goal of good, preventive oral hygiene.

I am asking for your support on this Pilot Project for the counties of Douglas, Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron. It may provide better access to dental care and services to approx. 13,000 MA recipients.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Joan Keeler-Pellman
Family Forum, Inc. - Project Head Start
Health/Nutrition Coordinator

MAYOR MARGARET CICCONE
COMMENTS BEFORE THE
JOINT FINANCE HEARING COMMITTEE
April 17, 1997

The two issues I am going to speak to today are:

1. *The revenue option known as Premier Resort Area.*

I support Governor Thompson's recommendation authorizing a local option revenue source in support of tourism destination. A tax of up to 0.5 percent could be levied on food and beverage sales. The district could consist of more than one municipality and participating municipalities could issue revenue bonds to finance capital improvement projects in the district. This proposal will assist municipalities with significant tourism activities in finding alternative funding mechanisms for capital projects.

2. *Fair Taxation.*

We also ask for tax fairness. Because cities, villages and some towns provide their residents with many of the same services that county government typically provides only to rural residents, city taxpayers often pay twice for services that rural residents only pay for once (Double Whammy - AB 262 / SB 150). This artificially increases the cost of living in urban areas and encourages sprawl. But simple equity alone dictates that the Legislature act to end double taxation of some citizens.

COMMENTS TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
By: Kenneth Stubbe, Executive Director
Superior-Douglas County Development Association, Inc.

I. Two issues I'd like to speak to are:

1. The importance of OC-3 level node Badgernet access to Superior and Douglas County economic development
2. Support for the Governor's Brownfields Initiative

II. OC-3 Level Node Badgernet access

- ▶ A four-lane OC-3 level node Badgernet data transmission expressway is as important to Superior and Douglas County educational excellence as the U.S. Highway 53 expressway is for transportation access to the rest of the country.
- ▶ A narrow, two-lane, rural DS-3 level node data highway will keep Superior in the technology hinterlands just as completely as the lack of the Highway 53 expressway would have kept us in the transportation hinterlands.
- ▶ The quality of technology and access to information at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and at our local schools and libraries are among the primary engines of local business growth, job creation efforts and local economic development.
- ▶ To even be in the game, Superior, Douglas County and northwestern Wisconsin must have the same access to information as communities we compete against.
- ▶ We should not be punished because of our geography.

III. Governor's Brownfields Initiative

- ▶ Superior, like other Wisconsin cities, is an international seaport.
- ▶ Superior and the southern shore of Lake Superior also retains much of its original pristine natural beauty.
- ▶ On the waterfront in Superior we have a number of abandoned, obsolete ore docks and grain storage facilities.

Comments to Joint Finance Committee

By: Kenneth Stubbe

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- ▶ Clean-up and redevelopment of these abandoned sites would restore lost natural beauty to Superior and would lessen the pressure to develop still pristine areas.

- ▶ Funding provided through the Brownfields Initiative would allow Superior to be both environmentally and developmentally pro-active on our waterfront.

April 17, 1997

Senator Jauch and Assembly person Linton. My name is Judy Lyons. I work for the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College with distance learning and the libraries. I am here today to speak with you about the Northern Area Health Education Center (AHEC), and the need for you to support a request to increase the Governor's budget in this area.

As you may know, WITC offers a number of programs in the health and allied health fields. It supports not only these students but also the 31 health care faculty and five on-site registered nurses who are responsible for the health and safety needs of our four campus locations.

One of the needs of our geographic area is reasonable access to health information, not only at the post secondary schools but also for support of students who are involved with on-site clinical experiences. As you know, the distances are great and health institutions small.

In the belief that all of us in the area need to support the health care students and professionals for the greater good, WITC is involved with and supports the Northern Wisconsin AHEC initiative, Northwoods HealthNet. This project is intended to upgrade and in some cases begin information services for health professionals and students working in our rural northland. Through the grant for this project which the Northern Wisconsin AHEC wrote, Internet access equipment for these northern Wisconsin health providers will be made available, the health science materials that these institutions already have will be entered through a cataloging process to enable resource sharing among the Healthnet members, and training programs will be provided to bring the local information providers up to speed on resource sharing. This is a vitally important project for this part of the state where distance, low population, and lack of experience, expertise, and equipment put our health and allied health professionals and students at great disadvantage.

This project would not have happened without the hard work, direction, and persistence of the AHEC staff. The northern Wisconsin AHEC has brought together both the post Secondary schools like WITC,

community entities, and private sector entities in an effort to provide improved support for the health needs of Northern Wisconsin. It has been sorely needed. Even with this project underway, there is still a great need, particularly here in the north for the ongoing support of Northern Wisconsin AHEC and its mission to enhance and expand community based health professionals education programs that will improve distribution of primary care health professionals to under served rural and urban communities and provide continuing education in these under served areas.

To help your constituents, the people of northern Wisconsin, receive the quality health care support they need and have a right to expect, I would wholeheartedly ask on behalf of WITC, its staff and students and myself, that you support an increase in the GPR funding to \$750,000 in the fiscal year 1997-98 and the \$800,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 with the funds to be split equally between appropriations s.20.250(1)(c) and s.20.285(1)(b).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Judy Lyons
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Superior, WI 54880

(715) 394-6677



Testimony of

Nicole Matthews

University of Wisconsin- Superior Student

On the 1997-1999 Biennial Budget Proposal

Before the Joint Finance Committee

April, 17 1997

Good afternoon, my name is Nicole Matthews and I am a member of the University of Wisconsin-Superior Student Senate. I am currently a sophomore here on campus.

I would like to talk to you today about the issue of Academic advising. The UW-System asked for an 11 million dollar advising initiative to help improve advising on all UW campuses. The governor decided not to fund that initiative in his budget proposal. Student on my campus, and United Council students Statewide would like to see this initiative put back into the budget.

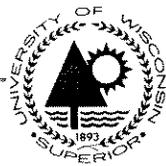
There are many areas in which academic advising needs to be improved on UW campuses. First, there needs to be strong improvements made in the area of Transfer advising. At my campus, the Faculty and staff members are our advisors. At this point in time they are given no formal training in how to be an advisor. While I have been in college I have realized how important good Academic Advising is. One of my friends who is graduating has had four different advisors in the past four years, another friend of mine, who is transferring, is losing quite a few credits and his four year college plan has turned into a five or six year plan. Any money that we could get to train advisors would greatly appreciated by students on our campus.

We need more money to support technology for advising. We are living in the age of technology. If we had sufficient funding, students and advisors would have the ability to check on their degree status at any time, anywhere. In an attempt to reduce the amount of credits to degree, a lot of the class offerings on my campus have changed. Right now I am not sure what classes I need to graduate and which ones I don't. If there was a computerized process that all students could use, It would be easier for me to get updated information. One thing that we must keep in mind is that computers are only as accurate as the person who enters the data and the advisor who interprets the reports. Equipment must be maintained, data must be current, and staff must be trained if these new technologies are to provide more effective services to students.

My campus is always looking for new ways to market itself. We are always looking for new

students and we want to grow. If Wisconsin wants to be competitive with other states, they have to make a very strong investment in education. Please remember to invest in the students of UW-Superior and families of Wisconsin when putting together the budget.

Thank you very much for time and consideration.



Testimony of

Debra A. Filteau

University of Wisconsin-Superior Student Senate President
United Council of Wisconsin Students Vice President

On the 1997-1999 Biennial Budget Proposal

Before the Joint Finance Committee

April 17, 1997

Members of the Joint Finance Committee, Good afternoon. I would like to begin by thanking you for allowing students the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Debra Filteau and I am the President of the University of Wisconsin- Superior Student Senate and Vice President of the United Council of Wisconsin Students. I currently represent over 2,600 students on the UW-Superior campus and I am a leader in United Council, an organization that represents over 140,000 students statewide.

As part of the UW System Board of Regents' Study of the UW-System in the 21st Century, there was a recommendation that would allow campuses, in various clusters— centers, comprehensives, and doctoral campuses— to charge differential tuition rates within the cluster. With this provision, there would be a minimum tuition level that must be charged. Campuses would then be allowed to increase tuition levels above and beyond that level.

Students on my campus, and members of United Council are opposed to differential tuition for both entire campuses and specific programs at campuses.

Students believe that differential tuition, as proposed, would force tuition increases on all UW-Campuses. Currently, the center institutions have one set tuition level, the 4-year comprehensives have set another, and the doctoral campuses have their set levels. Differential tuition would change this system and could force campuses to raise tuition levels above what they would normally be. This would occur as a result of competition between the campuses. For example, if one campus decided to raise tuition to increase program revenue, other campuses would have to do the same or they might loose faculty and students to that competing institution. This could prove extremely detrimental to students at UW-Superior.

I have talked with many legislators and educators statewide about the competition that differential tuition would create. Eau Claire currently has differential tuition. They have basically created a student fee to pay for academic programs. This has already created competition in the UW-

System. My campus almost lost one of its professors to Eau Claire. Eau Claire currently has a selling point that the rest of the UW schools do not. They have money for programs that the rest of the schools do not.

Eau Claire is already causing this competition. If differential tuition becomes a reality, then Superior is going to be forced to use that mechanism to keep faculty on our campus.

At Superior, we have a higher percentage of students receiving financial aid than any other campus. If tuition was increased, many of our students could be priced out of an education.

Superior is the University for Northern Wisconsin. The two most common reasons that students attend school here are price and location. As a result of these reasons, UW-Superior provides an excellent economic benefit for the people of Northern Wisconsin. Our next closest institution is almost three hours away. If Superior is forced to compete with other institutions for program revenue and students, the families and students in Superior would very likely be forced out of an education.

Differential tuition is a flexibility that students and Wisconsin families can not afford. Wisconsin must continue its commitment and continue to invest in education. Differential tuition would most likely cause competing and rising tuition increases that would force many students out of an education.